San Francisco Chronicle

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Work to fix transit hub girders is under way

Crews prepare the area near two cracked beams

By Evan Sernoffsky

Crews made preparations to brace a damaged section of San Francisco's new Transbay Transit Center on Thursday, after cracks were discovered this week in two large steel beams over Fremont Street.

Standing on scissor lifts, construction workers peeled off corrugated metal sheeting below the cracked section while crews inside the facility rerouted electrical lines and other utility equipment. The next step is to ease the pressure on the beams that officials say are in danger of failing.

The Transbay Joint Powers Authority, which built and operates the facility, is trying to locate large steel columns to place under the compromised beams. The columns will run through the bus deck onto Fremont Street.

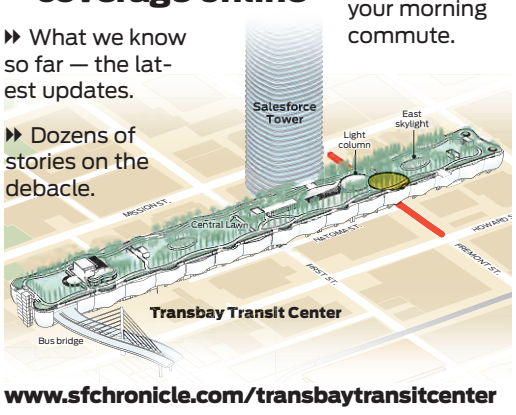
"The current plan is to put the shoring system in the middle of Fremont Street so we can allow traffic to move around both sides," said Mark Zabaneh, TJPA executive director. He said the plan is still "very tentative."

TJPA officials had said the transit center and Fremont Street would remain closed at least through next week as work is done to fix the beams. On Thursday, Zabaneh said he hoped to open Fremont by next week, but said it will depend on how quickly the materi-

Transbay continues on A7

Comprehensive coverage online

- What we know so far — the latest updates.
- Dozens of stories on the debacle.
- Get traffic updates for your morning commute.



www.sfchronicle.com/transbaytransitcenter

Business Report

SEC sues Elon Musk over tweets about Tesla. C1

Datebook

Kevin Hart is good for some laughs in 'Night School.' E1

Accuser, nominee firmly state cases

After hearing conflicting accounts, Senate panel to vote on confirming Kavanaugh for high court

Win McNamee / Getty Images

Palo Alto University Professor Christine Blasey Ford is sworn in before testifying in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Ford says she was sexually assaulted by Brett Kavanaugh as a teen 36 years ago.

Michael Reynolds / Getty Images

Kavanaugh adamantly denied Ford's allegation and blamed Democrats for making the Supreme Court confirmation process into "a national disgrace."

By Bob Egelko

Testifying to a bitterly divided Senate committee and a transfixed nation, Bay Area professor Christine Blasey Ford said Thursday she is "100 percent" sure that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when the two were teenagers 36 years ago — an allegation the judge decried angrily as a plot by Democrats and a "national disgrace."

The daylong hearing was combative, with neither side backing away from their conflicting versions of past events. Republicans said they would hold a committee vote Friday morning — though the outcome remained uncertain after a key member expressed doubts following testimony. A full Senate vote could happen early next week.

The hearing came as the nation comes to terms with numerous sex harassment and assault scandals and a #MeToo backlash from survivors who have their own stories. And it brought back memories but also stood in contrast to the 1991 hearings on Anita Hill's sexual harassment complaint against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

Holding back tears, Ford testified Thursday that she vividly recalls Kavanaugh and a friend drunkenly laughing

Kavanaugh continues on A8

Intense, emotional testimony reflects high political stakes

ANALYSIS

By Joe Garofoli

She said. He said. To different audiences. In different tones.

With different goals.

What Christine Blasey Ford said she remembers most vividly is "the uproarious laughter" of two teenage boys when they shoved her into a bedroom at a party 36 years ago and one tried to rape her. Her voice quavered Thursday, she was deferential to senators, but she was "100 percent" certain — her would-be rapist was Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh was angry and he was loud when he insisted to the Senate Judiciary Committee that Ford was mistaken and that Democrats were engaged in a "calculated and orchestrated political hit." In a remarkable warning from a prospective Supreme Court justice, he said,

Analysis continues on A8

Leah Garchik: Christine Blasey Ford's mention of "uproarious laughter" sparks range of emotions. A10

Editorial: Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh came across as less composed than Ford. A11

BART fare crackdown to grow despite concerns

By Rachel Swan

A new report from BART shows pronounced racial disparity in the people who are cited for fare evasion, nearly half of whom are African American.

Although the numbers alarmed several members of BART's Board of Directors, the board still voted Thursday night to expand the fare enforcement program, adding 10 non-sworn officers to its existing force of 47.

> **Without better analysis, "I cannot support the expansion."**
>
> *Board Director Lateefah Simon*

Of the 3,813 citations issued from March to the end of August, 47 percent went to black riders, 18 percent to whites, 15 percent to Latinos, 4 percent to Asians and 0.1 percent to American Indians. Twelve percent of people ticketed identified as other races, and BART lacked racial data for the rest.

The data led several BART

BART continues on A9

Gabrielle Lurie / The Chronicle

A man jumps the turnstile at BART's Civic Center Station. BART issued 3,813 fare citations from March through August.

Weather

FOG

Patchy fog, then partly cloudy. Highs: 61-85. Lows: 47-58. C6